

Message Text

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10
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 170840Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3072
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EG
SUBJECT: LIBYANS DENOUNCE EGYPTIAN "SPY NETWORK"

1. ON MARCH 15 LIBYAN RADIO ANNOUNCED THE DISCOVERY OF WHAT IT CALLED AN EGYPTIAN ARMY SPY NETWORK OPERATING IN LIBYA, WITH BRANCHES IN THE CITIES OF GHARIAN, KHUMS, BENGHAZI AND TRIPOLI. THE PRESS OF MARCH 16 CARRIES DETAILS OF THE ALLEGED NETWORK WITH PICTURES AND BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON THE FIFTEEN EGYPTIAN ARMY PERSONNEL INVOLVED, OF WHOM SEVEN ARE SAID TO BE OFFICERS. MANY OF THE PHOTOS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM MILITARY IDENTIFICATION CARDS, AND SHOW THE ALLEGED SPIES IN UNIFORM.

2. THE NETWORK IS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN WORKING AT THE PERSONAL ORDER OF PRESIDENT SADAT, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HEAD OF THE EGYPTIAN RELATIONS OFFICE (EMBASSY) IN TRIPOLI, AND TO HAVE BEEN IN CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH OFFICIALS OF THE RELATIONS OFFICE. IT IS ACCUSED OF SPREADING RUMORS TO "CREATE A SPLIT BETWEEN THE LIBYAN ARAB PEOPLE AND ITS LEADERSHIP," AND ALSO OF DISTRIBUTING AGGRESSIVE TRACTS WHICH IT RECEIVED FROM

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THE RELATIONS OFFICE. THE ALLEGED NETWORK IS SAID

TO HAVE INFILTRATED INTO LIBYA "RECENTLY," WITH SOME
OF ITS MEMBERS ARRIVING IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS.

3. COMMENT: IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY MORE SPECIFIC
ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL
ARRESTED THAN THE DISTRIBUTING CONTRACTS, THE SUSPICION
MUST REMAIN THAT THE FIFTEEN MEN WERE ARRESTED BY
LIBYAN AUTHORITIES TO BE USED AS BARGAINING COUNTERS FOR
THE RETURN OF THE LIBYAN SOLDIERS RECENTLY ARRESTED IN
EGYPT.
CARLE

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